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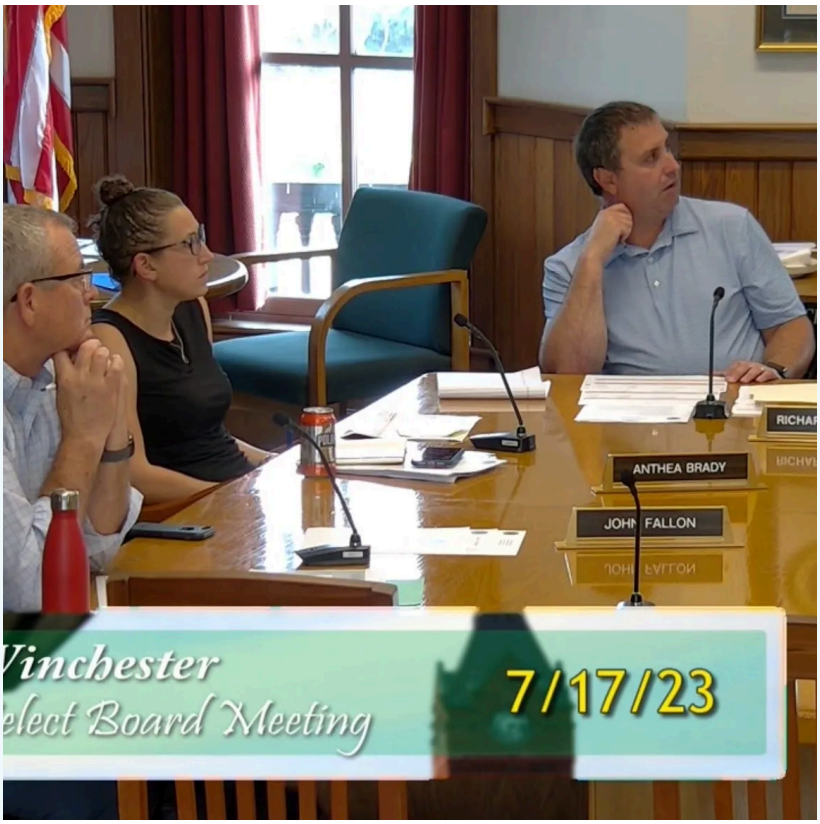
NEWS

What's Town Government Up To? - Select Board

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

July 20, 2023 . 8:58 PM — 3 min read



By Tara Hughes

July 17, 2023. Monday night's roughly four hour Select Board meeti
consisted of a goal-setting session, executive session and regular

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During regular business, the Select Board was introduced to and heard from three students from our sister town of Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

They also heard the town manager's report. Town Manager Beth Rudolph, gave an update on the Lake Street bridge closure and the town's communication plan around the closure. She discussed the cost escalation for the Muraco School culvert project from $9.1 million to $10 million, which will require both the state's Department of Revenue and Fall Town Meeting approval to increase the borrowing authorization. The town is working to get an engineering consulting firm under contract to assess flooring issues in Winchester High School. Staff will also be meeting with town counsel to discuss next steps in potential liability for the issues. The town has received an FY24 Community Planning Early Action Grant in the amount of $50,000, which will be put towards an update of the town's Housing Production Plan. Washington and Cross Street bridge repairs were put out to bid and both projects came in over bid. The town is working with the state Department of Public Works to determine if it can use Chapter 90 funding to complete one of the projects, and will look to go back to Fall Town Meeting for additional funding. In addition, the Town's archivist, and longtime Daily Times-Chronicle historian Dr. Ellen Knight was recently among the recipients of this year's Star Award from the Massachusetts History Alliance (MHA). To read the full Town Manager's Report go to: https://www.winchester.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/4541?fileID=13558

The Select Board voted favorable action on a memorial for former longtime town moderator John Sullivan, which will be funded by a donation. They also voted in favor of the Utility Box Decoration Project presented by Peter Engeldrum of Winchester Cultural Council, the All Hazard Mitigation Plan adoption and the reappointment of Allan Eyden to the Wildwood Cemetery Advisory Committee, new term to expire May 31, 2026. While they supported the update and proposed actions by

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Permanent Street Tree Committee presented by David Miller, the board did not take a vote pending Town Counsel's review of a bylaw.

The Select Board also approved the use of $51,500 from the Hospital Gift Account to pay the Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston pursuant to a proposal to the town to develop a Communications Plan, Social Media Policy and make improvements to the Town's website. Said work was recommended as part of the Communications Study Committee's final report to Town Meeting last fall.

Finally, the developer of the 40B project at 87-89 Cross Street notified the Select Board of their intention to change the project from 9 rental units, including two affordable units at 50% area median income (AMI) and 7 market rate units, to 8 condominiums (homeownership) with 2 affordable units at 80% AMI and 6 market rate units. Because the project is being changed from rental units to condo, only the affordable units will count towards the Town's Subsidized Housing Inventory (SHI), while under the original proposal all units would have counted towards the SHI. The new proposal also decreases the affordability of the two affordable units. While the Select Board had voted to endorse the original proposal, Chair Richard Mucci said he felt like this was a "bait and switch." The developer disagreed and indicated that the changes are necessary due to financial constraints due in part to the recent increases in construction loan interest rates. No action was taken pending further information.

To view the meeting in full go to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q--uvSZvJkY

Tara Hughes is president of Winchester News Group, a town meeting member and former member of the Communications Study Committee.

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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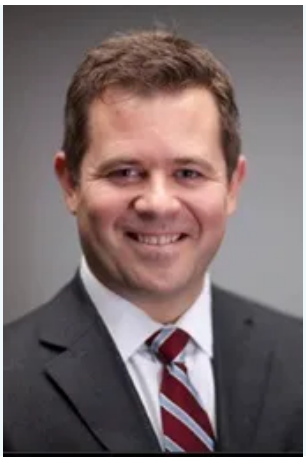

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housi protections for rente

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Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

March 3, 2026

Latest

EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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